

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. 1. A Component Customization and Personalization System (CCPS) comprising:
 3. a central site comprising an interface to a communications network, said central site further comprising a set of predetermined designs and images and a graphics server providing graphics tools for enabling a modification of said predetermined designs and images, and for further enabling the creation of new designs and images;
 8. a user station coupled to said central site through said communications network, said user station comprising:
 10. (a) a user interface for enabling a user to access said graphics server for defining a desired design to be placed on a consumer product; and
 13. (b) a manufacturing subsystem for receiving data descriptive of said desired design, and for manufacturing, at said user station, at least one component of said consumer product to have said desired design.
1. 2. The CCPS of claim 1, wherein said central site further comprises an electronic commerce engine for conducting a financial transaction with the user in order to make an accounting for the manufactured at least one component.
1. 3. The CCPS of claim 1, wherein said central site further comprises means for enabling the user to include the desired design into said set of predetermined designs and images.
1. 4. The CCPS of claim 1, wherein said user interface enables the user to access said graphics server for the purpose of selecting one of said predetermined designs as a desired design.

2 5. The CCPS of claim 1, wherein said user interface enables the
3 user to access said graphics server for the purpose of creating said desired
4 design by modifying at least one of said predetermined designs and images.

1 6. The CCPS of claim 1, wherein said user interface enables the user
2 to access said graphics server for the purpose of creating said desired design by
3 inputting the new design or a new image.

1 7. The CCPS of claim 6, wherein the user inputs a new design or
2 image by digitally scanning an artwork or a photograph.

1 8. The CCPS of claim 6, wherein the user inputs the new design or
2 image by outputting digital data from a digital camera.

1 9. The CCPS of claim 6, wherein the user inputs the new design or
2 image by outputting digital data from a memory card.

1 10. The CCPS of claim 1, wherein said at least one user station
2 comprises a point-of-sale (POS) terminal.

1 11. A Component Customization and Personalization System (CCPS)
2 comprising:

3 a central site comprising an interface to a communications network, said
4 central site further comprising a set of predetermined designs and
5 images and an electronic commerce engine for conducting a financial
6 transaction with the user; and

7 a user station coupled to said central site through said communications
8 network, said at least one user station comprising:

9 (a) a user interface for enabling a user to access a graphics program
10 for defining a desired design to be placed on a consumer
11 product, the graphics program implementing graphics tools for
12 enabling a modification of said predetermined designs and
13 images, and for further enabling the creation of new designs and
14 images; and

15 (b) a manufacturing subsystem for receiving data descriptive of said

16 desired design, and for manufacturing, at said user station, at
17 least one component of said consumer product to have said
18 desired design.

1 12. The CCPS of claim 11, wherein said electronic commerce engine
2 accepts a payment from the user in a form selected from the group consisting of
3 a credit card, a debit card, a gift card, and a redemption of loyalty points.

1 13. A Component Customization and Personalization System
2 (CCPS), comprising:

3 a central site comprising an interface to the Internet, said central site
4 further comprising a set of predetermined designs and images and an
5 electronic commerce engine for conducting a financial transaction
6 with the user;

7 a user station coupled to said central site through the Internet, said user
8 station comprising:

9 (a) a user interface for enabling a user to access a graphics program
10 for defining a desired design to decorate at least one component
11 of a mobile station, the graphics program implementing graphics
12 tools for enabling a modification of said predetermined designs
13 and images, and for further enabling the creation of new designs
14 and images; and

15 (b) a manufacturing subsystem for receiving data descriptive of said
16 desired design, and for manufacturing, at said user station, at
17 least one component of said consumer product to have said
18 desired design.

1 14. A Component Customization and Personalization System (CCPS)
2 user station comprising:

3 a user interface for enabling a user to access a graphics subsystem for
4 defining a desired design to be placed on a consumer product; and
5 a manufacturing subsystem for receiving data descriptive of said desired
6 design, and for manufacturing, at said user station, at least one

7 component of said consumer product to have said desired design.

1 15. The CCPS user station of claim 14, further comprising an interface
2 for accessing an electronic commerce engine for conducting a financial
3 transaction with the user in order to make an accounting for the manufactured at
4 least one component.

1 16. The CCPS user station of claim 14, wherein said graphics
2 subsystem comprises a set of predetermined designs and images, and a
3 graphics tool for enabling a modification of said predetermined designs and
4 images and for further enabling the creation of new designs and images.

1 17. The CCPS user station of claim 16, wherein said graphics
2 subsystem enables the user to include the desired design into said set of
3 predetermined designs and images.

1 18. The CCPS user station of claim 16, wherein said user interface
2 enables the user to access said graphics subsystem for the purpose of selecting
3 one of said predetermined designs as a desired design.

1 19. The CCPS user station of claim 16, wherein said user interface
2 enables the user to access said graphics subsystem for the purpose of creating
3 said desired design by modifying at least one of said predetermined designs and
4 images.

1 20. The CCPS user station of claim 16, wherein said user interface
2 enables the user to access said graphics subsystem for the purpose of creating
3 said desired design by inputting the new design or a new image.

1 21. The CCPS user station of claim 20, wherein the user inputs a new
2 design or image by digitally scanning an artwork or a photograph.

1 22. The CCPS user station of claim 20, wherein the user inputs the
2 new design or image by outputting digital data from a digital camera.

1 23. The CCPS user station of claim 20, wherein the user inputs the
2 new design or image by outputting digital data from a memory card.

1 24. The CCPS user station of claim 14, further comprising a point-
2 of-sale (POS) terminal.

1 25. The CCPS user station of claim 14, wherein said consumer
2 product is a mobile station.

1 26. The CCPS user station of claim 25, wherein said at least one
2 component is a cover component of said mobile station.

1 27. The CCPS user station of claim 25, wherein said user interface
2 further enables a user to at least one of select, modify or create an audible
3 signal for use with said mobile station.

1 28. The CCPS user station of claim 25, wherein said user interface
2 further enables a user to at least one of select, modify or create a graphical
3 image for use with said mobile station.

1 29. A method for providing a component customization and
2 personalization function, comprising the steps of:

3 providing a central site comprising an interface to a communications
4 network, a set of predetermined designs and images, and a graphics
5 server providing graphics tools for enabling a modification of the
6 predetermined designs and images, and for further enabling a
7 creation of new designs and images;

8 coupling a plurality of user stations to the central site through the
9 communications network, each of the user stations comprising (a) a
10 user interface for enabling a user to access the graphics server to
11 perform a step of defining a desired design to be placed on a
12 consumer product, and (b) a manufacturing subsystem;

13 receiving, at said manufacturing subsystem, data descriptive of the desired
14 design; and

15 manufacturing at said manufacturing subsystem at least one component of
16 the consumer product to have the desired design.

1 30. The method of claim 29, wherein the central site further comprises

2 an electronic commerce engine for conducting a financial transaction with the
3 user in order to make an accounting for the manufactured at least one
4 component.

1 31. The method of claim 29, further comprising a step of enabling the
2 user to include the desired design into the set of predetermined designs and
3 images.

1 32. The method of claim 29, wherein the step of defining a desired
2 design comprises selecting one of the predetermined designs as the desired
3 design.

1 33. The method of claim 29, wherein the step of defining a desired
2 design comprises modifying at least one of the predetermined designs and
3 images.

1 34. The method of claim 29, wherein the step of defining a desired
2 design comprises inputting the new design or a new image.

1 35. The method of claim 34, wherein the user inputs a new design or
2 image by digitally scanning an artwork or a photograph.

1 36. The method of claim 34, wherein the user inputs the new design
2 or image by outputting digital data from a digital camera.

1 37. The method of claim 34, wherein the user inputs the new design
2 or image by outputting digital data from a memory card.

1 38. The method of claim 29, wherein at least one of the user stations
2 is comprised of a point-of-sale (POS) terminal.

1 39. A method for providing a component customization and
2 personalization function, comprising the steps of:

3 providing a user station comprising (a) a user interface, and (b) a
4 manufacturing subsystem;
5 enabling a user, via said user interface, to access a graphics subsystem to
6 define a desired design to be placed on a consumer product;

7 receiving, at said manufacturing subsystem, data descriptive of the desired
8 design; and
9 manufacturing, by said manufacturing subsystem at said user station, at
10 least one component of the consumer product to have the desired
11 design.

1 40. The method of claim 39, further comprising a step of accessing an
2 electronic commerce engine for conducting a financial transaction with the user
3 in order to make an accounting for the manufactured at least one component.

1 41. The method of claim 39, further comprising a step of enabling the
2 user to include the desired design into the set of predetermined designs and
3 images.

1 42. The method of claim 39, further comprising a step of enabling the
2 user to include the desired design into a set of predetermined designs and
3 images.

1 43. The method of claim 39, wherein the step of enabling the user to
2 access the graphics subsystem comprises enabling the user to select one of a
3 set of predetermined designs as the desired design.

1 44. The method of claim 39, wherein the step of enabling the user to
2 access the graphics subsystem comprises enabling the user to modify at least
3 one of a set of predetermined designs and images.

1 45. The method of claim 39, wherein the step of enabling the user to
2 access the graphics subsystem comprises enabling the user to input a new
3 design or a new image.

1 46. The method of claim 45, wherein the user inputs a new design or
2 image by digitally scanning an artwork or a photograph.

1 47. The method of claim 45, wherein the user inputs the new design
2 or image by outputting digital data from a digital camera.

1 48. The method of claim 45, wherein the user inputs the new design
2 or image by outputting digital data from a memory card.

1 49. The method of claim 39, wherein said user stations is comprised
2 of a point-of-sale (POS) terminal.

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